March 22, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Free Press: Mandatory life sentence overturned for teen convicted in 2009 Eastpointe slaying

"A mandatory life sentence was overturned for a second teen convicted in the 2009 abduction and slaying of an Eastpointe sandwich shop customer. Robert Taylor, now 20, is to be re-sentenced, according to a Michigan Court of Appeals ruling Thursday. The opinion was not unexpected. On Tuesday, the appeals court issued a similar opinion in the case of Taylor's co-defendant, Ihab Maslamani."

Full story

Also see:

The Detroit News: Second man in Chesterfield Twp. murder has no-parole term overturned

Full story

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: New hearing for 2nd co-defendant convicted in Matt Landry's abduction, murder

Full story

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Second no-parole sentence thrown out in Matt Landry murder case

Full story

Detroit Free Press: Wayne County court to squeeze personal protection order docket to help short-handed prosecutors

"Wayne County Circuit Court officials plan to hold hearings on personal protection orders once a week to accommodate a staffing shortage at the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office that caused prosecutors to skip court appearances.... A spokeswoman for the Prosecutor's Office said Thursday that the court agreed to consolidate its personal protection order docket from five days a week down to just one."

Full story

Also see:

Detroit Free Press: Don't compromise justice in protest over Wayne County budget cuts

Full story

The Detroit News: Wayne County Prosecutor says staff cuts affecting PPO hearings

Full story

The Argus-Press/Owosso: County offices to close

"Lauri Braid, Shiawassee County Clerk, announced that the courthouse and all county offices will be closed March 29 in observance of Good Friday. Offices will resume hours April 1 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m." Full story

Cadillac News: Local legend was a women's rights pioneer

"Donning her trademark court attire, Osceola County 77th District Court Judge Susan Grant paid a visit to Reed City's Norman Elementary to talk to students about someone she believes embodies one of America's best stories of strong women in the country's history. March is Women's History Month, and perhaps no other woman from our area is more famous for her advancement of women than former Northern Michigan resident Anna Howard Shaw."

Full story

** The article is available by subscription only.

The Daily Telegram/Adrian: Child sex convict keeps life prison term after appeal win

"A Tipton grandfather said no thanks Wednesday to resentencing for his 2010 child sex convictions. His current four life prison terms allow 61-year-old Delmar Lee Toth to apply for parole after 15 years. He risked waiting twice that long if the life terms were replaced with a maximum number of years available for his convictions."

Full story

The Daily News/Greenville: Carson City inmate's conviction upheld by Court of Appeals

"A Carson City Regional Correctional Facility prisoner has been denied by the Michigan Court of Appeals for the second time. Burton David Cortez, 33, was originally sent to prison for a May 14, 2000, criminal sexual conduct offense in Charlevoix County."

Full story

Detroit Legal News: Cooley Law students help teens run own court

"... [Dean Joan] Vestrand worked on setting up such a court in Ypsilanti High School using a template of sort from the Lansing Teen Court, and then introduced it to YHS administrators. The Student Court not only gives high school students the chance to consider careers in law, it lets them see a thoughtful way of handling conflict. Meanwhile, Cooley students gain experience themselves."

Full story

Flint-Genesee County Legal News: New judge wants to help resolve issues

"Beginning a new job can be nerve-racking for some, yet others embrace the opportunity before them. Newly-elected Oakland County 46th District Court Judge Debra Nance is the latter. A second-career attorney 13-years into her journey in the law, Nance, a wife and mother of two, loves the legal profession and has since her youth."

Full story

Flint Journal: Appeals court sides with Genesee County drain commissioner in Grand Blanc schools dispute

"The Grand Blanc School District's legal bid for lower water and sewer fee connections isn't dead yet. But Genesee County Drain Commissioner Jeff Wright said Thursday, March 21, that the district has lost its case against his office at the Michigan Court of Appeals, and said he will approach school officials about ending the long and costly court fight."

Full story

MLive.com: Lawyer plans appeal in murder conviction of Sandra Layne, 75year-old who shot grandson

"A lawyer for 75-year-old Sandra Layne, who was found guilty of second-degree murder this week in the slaying of her 17-year-old grandson, plans to appeal the conviction. Attorney Jerome Sabotta told WJR's Paul W. Smith he will question instructions the judge gave the jury in the trial."

Full story

Morning Sun: Clare County approves security measures

"... After a lengthy discussion on security in the [combined county and courthouse] building, commissioners approved some measures from a proposal brought by 80th District Judge Joshua Farrell and Undersheriff Dwayne Miedzianowski."

Full story

Muskegon Chronicle: Muskegon attorney Terry Nolan's legal troubles postpone two clients' murder trials

"Terry J. Nolan was back in court as an attorney Thursday. But he may not be for long. Nolan, who faces a felony charge of cocaine use-double penalty, appeared before Muskegon County 14th Circuit Judge Timothy G. Hicks for a status conference on the case of Craig Reginald Lewis, charged with open murder and three gun crimes."

Full story

Press & Guide/Dearborn: Judge David Allen to chair ADC Michigan Advisory Board

"The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee recently announced that long-term advisory board member, Wayne County Circuit Judge David Allen, will serve as the ADC Advisory Board chairman for 2013-14."

Full story

WDIV-TV(4)/Detroit: Wayne Co. judge responds to misconduct charges

"Wayne County Judge Bruce Morrow has responded to allegations of misconduct which were brought against him by the Judicial Tenure Commission. The complaint against Morrow lays out 26 allegations of misconduct by Morrow in 10 cases -- including failing to sentence defendants to the required terms and not putting his rulings in writing."

Full story